

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following amended claims 1 and 21 for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

1. (currently amended) A method for inducing tolerance in a mammal to an antigen comprising the steps of
 - a. isolating peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from a whole blood sample from said mammal;
 - b. isolating dendritic cells from said PBMC;
 - c. exposing said dendritic cells *ex vivo* to apoptotic cells expressing said antigen in the presence of at least one dendritic cell maturation stimulatory molecule and in the absence of effective CD4⁺ T cell help, wherein said dendritic cells upon exposure to said dendritic cell maturation stimulatory molecule are characterized as having the phenotype CD14⁻, CD83⁺ and HLA-DR^{hi}; and
 - d. introducing the dendritic cells of step c) into said mammal;

wherein said dendritic cells induce apoptosis of antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cells in said mammal resulting in tolerance to said antigen.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell maturation stimulatory molecule is PGE2, TNF-alpha, IL-6, IL-1 beta, lipopolysaccharide, monocyte conditioned medium, CpG-DNA, or any combination thereof.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said absence of effective CD4⁺ T cell is achieved by excluding CD4⁺ T cells from said step c).
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said absence of effective CD4⁺ T cell help is achieved by including in step c) at least one agent that inhibits or eliminates effective CD4⁺ T cell help.
5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein said agent which inhibits or eliminates effective CD4⁺ help is a monoclonal antibody to a TNF superfamily member, a

combination thereof, a monoclonal antibody to a receptor for a TNF superfamily member, or a combination thereof

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein said TNF superfamily member is CD40L, TRANCE, OX40 or DR3.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein said receptor for a TNF superfamily member is CD40, TRANCE, OX40 ligand or TWEAK.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said absence of effective CD4+ T cell is achieved by inhibiting formation of mature forms of MHC II / peptide complexes within the dendritic cell.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by preventing cleavage of invariant chain.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein said preventing is achieved by addition of a cathepsin inhibitors.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by blocking loading of peptides by inhibiting HLA-DM.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by preventing successful antigen degradation and formation of a MHC II peptide epitope.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein said preventing is achieved by inhibiting cathepsin D or alternative proteases.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by inhibiting transport of MHC II / peptide complexes to the cells surface.

15. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said agent which inhibits or eliminates effective CD4 T cell help inhibits signalling consequent to dendritic cell-CD4 T cell engagement.
16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said agent is selected from a FKBP antagonist and a TOR antagonist.
17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said FKBP antagonist is tacrolimus.
18. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said TOR antagonist is rapamycin.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said antigen is a tumor antigen, a viral antigen, a self-antigen or a transplant antigen.
20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein said presence of at least one agent that inhibits effective CD4 T cell help comprises a monoclonal antibody to TRANCE and FK-506.
21. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein after ~~a period of time following step e)~~, the dendritic cells mature and exhibit the phenotype CD14⁻, CD83⁺ and HLA-DR^{hi}, the dendritic cells are infused into the mammal.
22. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human.
23. (withdrawn) A method for inducing tolerance in a mammal to a pre-selected antigen comprising the steps of
- a. providing a dendritic cell chemoattractant at a site in a mammalian body, said site comprising an antigen to which tolerization of an immune response is desired or made to comprise an antigen to which tolerization of an immune response is desired by administration of said antigen to said site; and

b. administering to said site or systemically to said mammal an agent which inhibits or eliminates effective CD4⁺ T cell help;

wherein immune system cells of said mammal are tolerized to said antigen.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said dendritic cell chemoattractant is a ligand for CCR6.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said ligand for CCR6 is 6-C-kine.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said agent which inhibits or eliminates effective CD4⁺ help is a monoclonal antibody to a TNF superfamily member, a combination thereof, a monoclonal antibody to a receptor for a TNF superfamily member, or a combination thereof.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein said TNF superfamily member is CD40L, TRANCE, OX40 or DR3.

28. (withdrawn) The method of claim 26 wherein said receptor for a TNF superfamily member is CD40, TRANCE, OX40 ligand or TWEAK.

29. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said agent which inhibits or eliminates effective CD4⁺ T cell inhibits formation of mature forms of MHC II / peptide complexes within the dendritic cell.

30. (withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein said inhibits formation is achieved by preventing cleavage of invariant chain.

31. (withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein said inhibits or eliminates is achieved by addition of a cathepsin inhibitor.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by blocking loading of peptides by inhibiting HLA-DM.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 32 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by preventing successful antigen degradation and formation of a MHC II peptide epitope.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein said preventing is achieved by inhibiting cathepsin D or alternative proteases.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein said inhibiting is achieved by inhibiting transport of MHC II / peptide complexes to the cells surface.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said agent which inhibits or eliminates effective CD4 T cell help inhibits signalling consequent to dendritic cell-CD4 T cell engagement.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 wherein said agent is selected from a FKBP antagonist and a TOR antagonist.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein said FKBP antagonist is FK-506.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein said TOR antagonist is rapamycin.

40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said pre-selected antigen is a tumor antigen, a viral antigen, a self antigen or a transplant antigen.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said presence of at least one agent that inhibits effective CD4 T cell help comprises a monoclonal antibody to TRANCE and FK-506.